

Jaguar Conservation Team (JAGCT) Summary Notes
Animas High School Library, Animas, New Mexico
July 25, 2002

Meeting was called to order by Bill Van Pelt, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), at 09:10 MDT.

A. Opening Comments and Ground Rules

Ground rules were the same as previous meetings. Bill Van Pelt asked that participants raise their hand to ask a question or state an opinion and that only one person speak at a time, with no side conversations, so that each person could be heard and the meeting could move forward. Participants in the Jaguar Working Group (JAGWG; i.e., everyone present at the meeting) were allowed to comment and were encouraged to do so on any issue discussed during the meeting. All present at the meeting were asked to state their name and affiliation.

Handouts Available

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Summary notes from January 31, 2001 meeting in Douglas, Arizona
3. Fact Sheet on the Proactive Carnivore Conservation Fund, Defenders of Wildlife

B. Review of Agenda and Previous Meeting Notes

1. Additions to Agenda: Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and its expiration date; Carnivore Conservation Fund and compensation for verified jaguar livestock depredation.
2. Status of Previous Action Items from the January 31, 2002 Meeting: these action items will be discussed in respective subcommittee updates.
3. Requested Changes to January 31, 2002 Meeting Notes: None.

C. Update on Arizona and New Mexico Jaguar Sightings

Arizona- Jack Childs' photo from December 2001 produced a lot of "new" sighting reports to the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD). Unfortunately, many of these sightings were from months to years ago and are impossible to verify. Tim Snow, AGFD Nongame Specialist, has received 12 sighting reports since December 2001. There have been multiple sightings reported from the Catalina Foothills- a few of these were verified as bobcats. There was a black cat reportedly seen several times in the San Pedro/Mule Mountains area. This is likely a mountain lion, but nothing was verified. There was a recent potential sighting along the San Pedro that an AGFD Wildlife Manager investigated. However, no sign or cat was found. There have been no reports from the vicinity of the photographed jaguar.

New Mexico- In late March, 2002, a gentleman reported seeing a spotted cat at night in his headlights approximately 7500 feet from him. New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

(NMDGF) responded and it was determined to be a young mountain lion. Chuck Hayes, NMDGF, reported a road-killed mountain lion that was a dark, smoky gray color. Perhaps similarly colored mountain lions are what represent the majority of our dark cat sightings. This particular lion was in bad shape, but has been sent to a museum in Albuquerque.

D. Depredation Subcommittee Update

Jack Childs, Depredation Subcommittee Chair, has not received any reports of livestock killed by jaguars within the last six months. In March 2002, Jack and Matt Colvin participated in Carlos Lopez-Gonzales' jaguar project in Mexico. They attempted to snare a jaguar with the intent of collaring it, but were unsuccessful. They did find cattle kills that looked like potential jaguar depredation. They also found a calf killed by a mountain lion where the nose was crushed in, as is characteristic of jaguar depredation. Matt found a lion track near the kill and there was other sign consistent with a mountain lion kill. Jack brought pictures for all interested parties to view.

E. Habitat Subcommittee Update

Arizona- The latest version of *Characterizing and Mapping Potential Jaguar Habitat in Arizona* has been distributed to Habitat Subcommittee members for review. Comments were due by this JAGCT meeting. However, several people indicated that they did not receive a hard copy of the report as requested and would need an extension on the comment period. Michael Robinson, Center for Biological Diversity, concurred that it was important to extend the comment period deadline so that all parties could have a chance to comment. The deadline for comments is now set for September 1, 2002. If no fatal flaws are found (i.e., none of the criteria identified by the habitat subcommittee and approved by the JAGCT Scientific Advisory Group, were ignored), the report will be distributed to the JAGCT on October 1, 2002. If a fatal flaw is found, the Habitat Subcommittee will reconvene in October to discuss the problem and acceptable solutions.

Bill Van Pelt, AGFD, has received comments from two parties to date. The first party was concerned with particulars regarding the "distance from water" criterion (use of a 10 km cut-off point instead of 16 km, as originally agreed upon by the Habitat Subcommittee). The second party requested clarification regarding the vegetation communities classification system and the differences between the Brown, Lowe, and Pase system and the AZ-GAP system.

Action Items:

- 1. Comments on the draft report are due to Bill Van Pelt, Arizona Game and Fish Department, by September 1, 2002.**
- 2. Arizona Game and Fish Department will double-check addresses on the official JAGCT mailing list, especially for those people who have indicated that they have not received meeting minutes and other materials.**

New Mexico- Chuck Hayes sent copies of New Mexico's habitat report *Evaluation of the Relative Suitability of Potential Jaguar Habitat in New Mexico* to Habitat Subcommittee members in July 2002. He was looking for comments prior to or during the JAGCT July

meeting. Gary Helbing, USFS, mentioned that the composite map of potential jaguar habitat in New Mexico is confusing because there is a big leap from the methodology mentioned in the paper to the final map. Chuck plans to incorporate into the report the maps for each layer {criterion} that are used to develop the final map.

F. Education Subcommittee Update

The Malpai Borderlands Group has donated \$2843 toward the development of the education unit and resource trunks.

The original jaguar education unit was very comprehensive and reviewers considered it too intensive for use in the present-day school system. The education subcommittee shortened the jaguar program into a 7-day unit by pulling six key lessons from the original study plan. The shortened version was distributed for comment at the January 31, 2002 JAGCT meeting. Karen Husted and Karen Schedler received comments from six parties.

The jaguar study plan is a problem-based unit in which students will identify solutions to conserving the jaguar and jaguar habitat. The jaguar education unit takes an integrative curriculum approach in which students learn about the jaguar and accompanying issues while meeting standard requirements in language arts, social studies, math, science, art, and environmental studies. The study plan will meet both Arizona and New Mexico teaching standards. Karen Husted and Karen Schedler brought a copy of the teaching standards to the JAGCT meeting for interested members to peruse.

The education subcommittee brought a draft copy of the Jaguar education unit and one of the resource trunks, which will house the materials that educators will need to teach this unit. The resource trunk contains “bone clones,” which are replicas of skulls for various felid species, vegetation maps, aerial photographs, and books and videos on jaguars. Karen Husted provided a general outline of the 7-day program:

Day 1: Students will learn about jaguar biology and will analyze differences in the skulls of jaguars, mountain lions, bobcats, and domestic cats.

Day 2: Students will map rainfall patterns and correlate these with vegetation associations. Students will then look at David Brown’s list of jaguar sightings and how they relate to the vegetation associations.

Day 3: Students will look at jaguar literature, including historical accounts, folklore, and culture viewpoints on the jaguar (e.g., Native Americans, lion hunters).

Day 4: Students will look at changing land-use patterns over time using aerial photographs.

Day 5: Students will examine the history of jaguar conservation, including the Conservation Agreement and the Endangered Species Act.

Day 6 & 7: Team or Individual Projects: Students will develop plans to conserve the jaguar, taking into account the viewpoints of all stakeholders. Final presentations will be given to the class.

Students will be evaluated on journals they keep during the unit (60 pts) and the final presentation (40 pts).

The education subcommittee wants to field test the unit during the fall 2002 semester (September – October). Karen Schedler will be coordinating a 2-3 hour workshop at which each teacher will be given a resource trunk. To date, one 4th grade teacher has volunteered to participate; the education subcommittee would like several 5th - 8th grade teachers from both rural and urban areas to participate in field-testing as well. There is a small stipend available: \$100 up front and another \$150 after all materials have been returned. Additionally, Karen Husted has developed a comprehensive evaluation form for teachers to complete. If possible, Karen Schedler would like to arrange for one of the participating classes to give their presentations at the January 2003 JAGCT meeting.

The education subcommittee is still looking for people to manage the resource trunks. Ideally, these trunks will be kept in various locations, both rural and urban, throughout southeastern Arizona. There will be 10 complete resource trunks and 5 partial resource trunks to manage. The partial trunks can be used for special presentations at libraries, community centers, and other such locales. The person(s) responsible for managing the trunks will sign them out to educators, probably for a maximum of two weeks, and inventory the supplies upon return.

The jaguar education unit should be translated into Spanish by the January 2003 JAGCT meeting. Karen Schedler will hopefully train teachers in Mexico on how to use the jaguar education unit, targeting those that have already participated in Project Wild training, an AGFD wildlife education program for teachers.

Action Items:

- 1. Send suggestions of 5th – 8th grade teachers interested in participating in the pilot testing of this program to Karen Schedler as soon as possible (kschedler@gf.state.az.us).**
- 2. Send suggestions for people to manage the resource trunks to Karen Schedler.**
- 3. AGFD will draft a letter from the JAGCT to the Malpai Borderlands Group to thank them for their generous monetary contribution.**

G. Outreach Subcommittee Update

The public outreach subcommittee is a new branch of the JAGCT. Scotty Johnson, Defenders of Wildlife, initiated the formation of this subcommittee at the January 2002 JAGCT meeting in order to take a pro-active step toward educating the public on borderland jaguars and the activities of the JAGCT. A real need for this was highlighted by the recent jaguar documentation in Arizona. The group submitted a grant proposal to the Wildlife Conservation Society and

received \$1000. Additionally, four other organizations (Defenders, AGFD, USFWS, and NMDGF) have each contributed \$1000 to the JAGCT for use in outreach efforts. Janice Przybyl, Sky Island Alliance, announced upcoming public outreach events that the subcommittee has already scheduled. These events will involve 1) a presentation centered on Jack Childs' camera monitoring work and his recent documentation of a jaguar in Arizona and 2) panel discussion with representatives from different agencies. In addition to public education, the purpose of these meetings is to re-engage some of the parties that have stopped coming to the JAGCT meetings. The schedule is as follows:

Bisbee	Copper Queen Library	Sept 23
Douglas	Police Dept. Auditorium	Sept 24
Nogales	Santa Cruz County Courthouse	Oct 3
Patagonia	Town Hall	Oct 8
Sierra Vista	Public Library	Oct 9
Animas	Community Center	Oct 15
Arivaca	Schoolhouse	Oct 26

The Outreach Subcommittee will develop press releases for these meetings and post flyers wherever possible. JAGCT members should tell as many people as possible about these events because word-of-mouth may be the most effective means of informing the public about these meetings. Additionally, other ideas for distributing information about the meetings are welcome. AGFD will look into posting these events on the Department website.

Scotty Johnson thanked Border Patrol representatives for attending the meeting. Border Patrol agents can serve as additional eyes and ears for the JAGWG and report cat sightings to the group. It is also important that Border Patrol agents are aware of the potential for this reclusive cat to exist along the border. INS should receive copies of the Jaguar Sighting Brochure when it is re-printed.

Discussion ensued regarding the press releases and subsequent public reactions from the December 2001 jaguar photograph. The outreach subcommittee will put a press package together to be used with future press releases. However, it is important to realize that the JAGCT cannot control what the press prints. The press release of the December 2001 jaguar documentation contained all pertinent information, but the press chose to exclude certain key facts.

At the January 2002 meeting, Wendy Warner, Malpai Borderlands Group offered to work with Gary Helbing, US Forest Service, to draft a letter about the jaguar depredation fund. The idea is to send this letter to ranchers with grazing leases within the Coronado National Forest to raise their awareness of the jaguar depredation compensation fund. Wendy distributed a copy of the draft letter to the JAGCT for comments. This letter was not to leave the meeting and comments were due to Wendy by the end of the meeting. The Malpai Borderlands Group and Defenders of Wildlife offer money to ranchers to compensate for livestock lost to jaguars. The letter elaborates on what to do if you find a suspected jaguar kill and who to contact. Gary Helbing is working on obtaining a mailing list of potentially affected permittees. However, he may be unable to release

names and addresses of permittees to the Malpai Borderlands Group for purposes of distributing the letter due to confidentiality issues.

Scotty Johnson discussed Defenders of Wildlife's Proactive Carnivore Conservation Fund and distributed a Fact Sheet on the fund. This fund was established with other carnivores in mind, such as grizzly bears and wolves, but it has recently been extended to cover jaguars. The proactive fund has three objectives: 1) to reduce conflicts between predators and humans; 2) to keep predators from being unnecessarily killed by agencies in response to human conflicts; and 3) to increase general tolerance for carnivores across the landscape. Money is also available for landowner incentive to improve habitat for carnivores. Scotty would like help identifying what specifically landowners can do to improve habitat for jaguars.

Action Items:

- 1. Word-of-mouth will likely be the best way of distributing information about the upcoming meetings. Please tell as many people as possible about the events.**
- 2. Distribute Jaguar Sighting Brochures to Border Patrol.**
- 3. The Outreach Subcommittee will develop a press package.**
- 4. Let Defenders of Wildlife know what landowners can do to improve habitat for jaguars.**

H. Jaguar Sighting Brochure Update

The US Forest Service, AGFD, and Defenders of Wildlife have contributed money for printing additional copies of the brochure *What to do if you see a Jaguar*. These brochures should be available and distributed by the January 2003 JAGCT meeting.

I. Status of the Jaguar Capture Kit

Bill Van Pelt, AGFD, has ordered a satellite collar and it should be delivered by August 2002. These collars can be programmed to turn on and off at specific times and can last up to 9 years. The transmitter can be turned on briefly to obtain a location reading and turned off immediately; it is extremely unlikely that a hacker could locate the jaguar by obtaining the frequency of its collar. The collar will be kept in the Tucson AGFD office along with other items needed for capturing and collaring a jaguar. Jack Child's asked what will happen if JAGCT members are tracking a jaguar and it crosses into Mexico. The JAGCT will work with Francisco Abarca, the AGFD Nongame Branch liaison with Mexico, on resolving this problem.

The media will be informed in the event that a jaguar is captured and collared.

Action Item:

The Depredation Subcommittee will review the capture protocol that was sent to the JAGCT from Howard Quigley, Hornacker Wildlife Institute and Scientific Advisory Group member, by November 1, 2002.

J. End-of-Year Report

The report is not done yet. It will be a two-year report covering JAGCT activities from June 2000 to present.

Action Item:

AGFD will complete the End-of-Year report.

K. Update on the AGFD Website

AGFD recently hired a Webmaster and the jaguar information posted on the web page will be updated shortly. The meeting minutes and the end-of-year report, when complete, will be added to the web page. The jaguar page is still one of the most frequently used web pages on the AGFD site. Additionally, Bill Van Pelt gets approximately 12 requests a month for reports regarding JAGCT activities.

L. Activities in Mexico

Don Cullum, New Mexico Cattle Growers Association, has been working with the cattle growers association in Chihuahua, Mexico. This group is very progressive and wants to learn how to better manage their land.

M. Memorandum of Agreement

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Jaguar Conservation Agreement expires 5 years from the date of signatures (i.e., December 2002). AGFD is currently discussing how the 5-year review of the MOA will be conducted. Scotty Johnson mentioned that he has ideas he'd like to share with the MOA review committee, when such a committee is formed and convenes. Bill will let Terry Johnson, AGFD Nongame Branch Chief and JAGCT chair, know that Scotty wants to present his ideas regarding the MOA.

N. January 2003 JAGCT meeting

The next meeting of the JAGCT will take place on January 23, 2003 at 1000. It was previously suggested that JAGCT meetings be held in different locales, such as Willcox or Benson, to encourage participation by new members. Sue Krentz, AZ Cattle Growers Association, suggested Cochise College Community Center as a possible location.

Action Item:

AGFD will get contact information for reserving Cochise College Community Center from Sue Krentz.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40.

List of JAGCT subcommittee Chairs:

Depredation Subcommittee: Jack Childs
Compensation Subcommittee: Ed Sanchez
Habitat Subcommittee: Bill Van Pelt
Education Subcommittee: Sue Krentz
Outreach Subcommittee: Scotty Johnson

Attendance Roster

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Aletris Neils	AZ Game and Fish Dept
Anna Mary Childs	Interested party
Annalaura Averill-Murray	AZ Game and Fish Dept
Ben Brown	Gray Ranch
Bill Van Pelt	AZ Game and Fish Dept
Charles Jones	USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services
Chuck Hayes	NM Department of Game and Fish
Dan Bell	Rancher
David Bergman	USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services
Hayes Gilstrap	AGFD Commissioner
Jack Barnitz	New Mexico BLM
Jack Childs	JAGCT
Jake McCarty	Rancher
Janice Przybyl	Sky Island Alliance
JR Murdock	USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services
Judy Keeler	Bootheel Association
Karen Husted	Education Consultant
Karen Schedler	AZ Game and Fish Dept
Levi Klump	Interested party
Lisa Haynes	Contract Wildlife Biologist
Maeschelle Harper	AZ Game and Fish Dept
Matt Colvin	JAGCT
Meira Gault	Interested party
Michael Robinson	Center for Biological Diversity
Nina King	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Paul Barrett	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Paul Pirtle	Interested party
S. Jake Breedlove	AZ Game and Fish Dept
Sam Dieringer	USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services
Scotty Johnson	Defenders of Wildlife
Stephen Williams	AZ State Land Department
Steve Mitchelson	National Park Service
Sue Krentz	AZ Cattle Growers Assoc.
Tim Snow	AZ Game and Fish Dept
Tony Povilitis	UC Extension
Trevor McGilvra	AZ Game and Fish Dept
Warner Glenn	Rancher
Wayne Lackner	Border Patrol
Wendy Glenn	Rancher